(b) Based on the viability of the market, Pinjore has been identified for development of an independent LPG distributorship in the Supplementary Marketing Plan 1996-98. LPG connections at Pinjore shall therefore be released against waiting list through the new distributorship planned at Pinjore.

Misuse of Solvent and Naptha

1195. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4086 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news/special bulletin shown on different channels of TV regarding the misuse of solvent and Naptha sold by Reliance Group of Industries;

(b) if so, whether the above sale made by the group is as per the prescribed norms;

(c) if not, the action being taken by Government against the said group; and

(d) how much loss is expected to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Oil Companies supply Naphtha to Customers including Reliance Group for captive consumption at market prices only and are required to check utilisation of the product supplied. Naphtha imports are also permitted without licence to actual users. In both cases, the return stream and unutilised Naphtha, if any, should be sold to refineries only. As of now, specific violation of procedures by this consumer has not been established. Government, however, maintains a vigil on alleged instances of misuse with a view to take appropriate action.

LPG Agency at Bhikiyasain

1196. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4088 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1998, and state:

(a) the details of applications received in regard to LPG agency at Bhikiyasain and by when the interview is likely to be organised for the purpose;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to shift the venue of LPG agency somewhere from the Tehsil centre of Bhikiyasain;

(c) if so, the reasons and justification thereof; and

(d) whether Government have issued any order to expedite the opening of Gas agency there, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Four applications are reported to have been received in response to advertisement for the LPG distributorship for Bhikiyasain. The concerned Dealer Selection Board has not fixed any date for the interview for the purpose so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has already constituted Dealer Selection Boards for Uttar Pradesh for faster selection of dealers/distributors and the Oil companies and the Dealer Selection Boards are under instructions to expedite selection of dealers/distributors.

Royalty Rates on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

1197. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that royalty rates on crude oil and natural gas are